

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a team sharing environment, an integrated development environment for persisting resource properties during transitions of data between a user and a team repository, the integrated development environment comprising:  
  
a property file for storing property keys and their associated resource property values.
2. The environment of claim 1, wherein an associated property file is created for each resource having properties to be persisted.
3. The environment of claim 1, wherein the property file is further used for storing a cache of prior resource property values.
4. The environment of claim 1, wherein the property file is searchable for returning a list of the property keys and their associated resource property values.
5. The environment of claim 1, wherein the property key name is qualified by appending the property key name to the name of the contributing resource.
6. The environment of claim 1, wherein the property file is a metadata file.
7. The environment of claim 6, wherein the metadata file is an XML file.
8. The environment of claim 1, said environment further comprising an extension point for providing an application program interface to third party plug-ins for creating a property file for the third party plug-in.

9. For a team sharing environment, a method for persisting resource properties in an integrated development environment during transitions of data between a user and a team repository, the method comprising the step of:
- storing, in a property file, a list of property keys to be persisted and their associated resource property values.
10. The method of claim 9, said method further comprising the step of:
- storing the property keys and values in different property files for different resources.
11. The method of claim 9, said method further comprising the step of:
- storing in the property file a cache of prior resource property values.
12. The method of claim 9, said method further comprising the step of:
- searching the property file for returning a list of the property keys and their associated resource property values.
13. The method of claim 9, said method further comprising the step of:
- qualifying a property key name by appending the property key name to a contributing resource's name.
14. The method of claim 9, said method further comprising the step of:
- providing an extension point as an application program interface to third party plug-ins for creating a property file for the third party plug-in.
15. A computer program product having a computer readable medium tangibly embodying computer executable code for directing an integrated development environment to persist resource properties in a team sharing environment during transitions of data between a user and a team repository, the computer program product comprising:

code for storing, in a property file, a list of property keys to be persisted and their associated resource property values.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

code for storing the property keys and values in different property files for different resources.

17. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

code for storing in the property file a cache of prior resource property values.

18. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

code for searching the property file for returning a list of the property keys and their associated resource property values.

19. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

code for qualifying a property key name by appending the property key name to the contributing resource's name.

20. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising:

code for providing an extension point as an application program interface to third party plug-ins for creating a property file for the third party plug-in.